Manchester Water-Works.—It appears from the report of the Water-works Committee recently read before the council, that the amount expended on these extensive works down to 31st July last was 347,737*l.* odd, besides 5,902*l.* of interest paid on loans; since which time 10,900*l.* more have been paid to the contractors. The progress towards completion will be seen from the following statement:—Woodhead Reservoir: Messrs. Thompson and Sons. Amount of contract, 22,600*l.* Value of work done, 1850, August 16th, 14,568*l.* 14s. 4½d.; value of extra work done, 6,410*l.* 2s. 9d.—Hollinworth and Arnfield Reservoir: Mr. Samuel Taylor. Contract, 28,953*l.* 6s. 2d.; work done, 1850, August 30th, 11,839*l.* 19s. 11d.; extra, 1,881*l.* 11s. 7d.—Rhodes Wood and Torside Reservoirs: Mr. Geo. Merritt. Contract, 42,153*l.* 19s. 1½d.; work done, 1850, August 30th, 14,198*l.* 6s. 7½d.; extra, 3,737*l.* 6s. 1d.—Denton and Gorton Reservoirs: Mr. David Bellhouse. Contract, 17,917*l.* 16s. 1d.; work done, 1850, August 29th, 8,906*l.* 6s. 0½d.; extra, 542*l.* 15s. 7½d. —On the engineering works, exclusive of accommodation works for millowners, the original estimate, including enlarged mains, was 253,395*l.* 10s. The probable cost of these works, when quite completed, will be, it appears, 282,652*l.*, showing an excess over the estimates of 29,057*l.*, due chiefly to enlargements and improvements not originally contemplated, and to additional provision for floods. In November, 1848, the sub-committee determined to remunerate Mr. Bateman, their engineer, for the works done beyond the borough bounds, by a per centage on the estimated amount, which the engineer then stated at 207,861*l.*, exclusive of 10,000*l.* for extra size of pipes, suggested by Mr. Walker, on which he did not wish to claim per centage. Since that time it appears that alterations in the projected works must alter the estimate given in. The report was finally adopted by the council.

On the Tenure of Property in England and Wales.—The tenures under which land is held in this country have grown out of the feudal system, and have differed materially at different periods of our history. At present, landed property is of three sorts, freehold, copyhold, and leasehold: an estate belonging unconditionally to its owner, and held directly under the Crown, or rather under the law and constitution of the country, is said to be freehold. But freehold property may be liable to regular and fixed annual payments, provided it be not liable to fine, heriot, or forfeiture. Copyhold estates are held of a subject, as part of a royalty, honour, or manor, and are liable to fines on account of deaths, transfers, and other such circumstances, according to the customs of the royalty, honour, or manor of which they form a part. Leasehold property is of various descriptions, such as long leasehold, for a term of 1,000 years; life leasehold with a fine certain, or under certain limitations on renewal; life leasehold with a fine uncertain, payable to the proprietor or other superior; in this case, the latter reserves merely a conventional rent, the tenant having paid down a sum of money to obtain the lease, and the right of alienation: this practice is common in the west of England. There is another kind of leasehold, with an uncertain fine payable to the proprietor, who receives the full rent of the land at the time of granting the lease, the lessor having a power of alienation; this is a common practice in Wales, and some parts of England. The last, and not least, of the various kinds of leasehold, is where the property is held for an ordinary term, with the power of alienation. A lease, without the power of alienation or transfer, is not called a tenure: though it merely gives a right of occupancy for some specified period, it is practically one of the most important tenures, much of the prosperity of every country, of which any considerable portion belongs to extensive proprietors, depending on the conditions in such leases. G. J. R.

Discovery at Rochester.—A correspondent informs us that, in pulling down some old houses near Rochester-bridge, the workmen have found a principal arch of St. Clement's Church; which church was shut up, and then taken down, in the year 1538, when the houses which are now being destroyed were built on the site. It is a pointed arch.

Coloone Cathedral.—A correspondent of the *Athenæum* says:—"Two years have done much for the Cathedral at Cologne. In less than two years more, the traveller will be able from a distance to see that the huge gap betwixt the choir and the towers is essentially diminished. The walls and one of the windows of the transepts are all but up, the flying buttresses being still untouched. The upper windows of the nave are already defined; the sketched-out tower in the façade has a new pier, and the giddily-lofty arch which is to connect it with its twin sister has been thrown. The further, however, that these interesting works advance, the more do I feel confirmed in the idea which I ventured to express on my last visit, that betwixt the space of the transepts and the bulk of the towers the proportions of the nave shrink into a shortness which both outside and inside of the Cathedral will ultimately produce a disappointing effect. I spent a long Sunday morning in the building; and to judge from the crowds that filled it, and the cheery jingle of money on the offering-plates, popular sympathy and curiosity with regard to the fulfilment of 'this broken promise to God' (as poor Hood called it) have in no degree subsided. Some of us may live to see the entire area thrown open to the vaults of the roof."

American Iron and Copper.—A great quantity of iron ore, yielding about ninety per cent. of pure iron, is reported to have been discovered on the Black River, Crawford county, Wisconsin, with abundance of timber for furnace fuel, and water-power at hand, as well as water-carriage.——That is nothing, however, to the advantages of the Cliff and Minesota copper-mines of Lake Superior, which are at present yielding immense quantities of native copper, in masses themselves immense, every piece weighing two tons or more, and requiring two teams to a waggon.

Great Fire at Montreal.—Another of those immense conflagrations, to which the timber-built houses of America, as elsewhere, so frequently give rise, has been scourging the town of Montreal. Five hundred thousand dollars' worth of property it is said have been destroyed. The fire consumed several streets in a very brief space of time, and a hundred houses were entirely destroyed, and many others made uninhabitable. A number of stone and brick houses were also involved in the general destruction.

New Church at Weymouth, Dorset.—On the 11th inst. the foundation-stone of the new church, dedicated to St. John (to be built in the parish of Radipole), was laid by the Reverend Edmond Hollond, M.A., the patron of the united parishes of Melcombe Regis and Radipole. The site is at the end of the Esplanade, which is about half-a-mile in length, and to which the church will form an ornamental termination. The ceremony on the ground was numerously attended. The style of this church is to be Decorated, and the building will be executed with the Ridgway-hill stone, with Bath stone for the coins and traceried windows. It will contain 628 sittings, and have no gallery. The organ will be placed in the tower. The plan is similar in arrangement to that of Christ-church at Battersea. The dimensions of the nave are,—length, 75 feet; width, 22 feet. The chancel 27 feet by 18 feet. The aisles are 11 feet in width, and the transepts project 9 feet from the aisle walls. The tower is 19 feet square, and is placed at the north-west corner. The height to the top of the spire is 130 feet. The height of the nave to the ridge is 52 feet, and the chancel 44 feet. The architect is Mr. Talbot Bury, and the builder Mr. P. Dodsnn.

Dock Engineering at Naples.—A letter, dated Naples, September 14, says:—"A very remarkable engineering blunder has caused the destruction of a dry dock built near the Molo of Naples, at an outlay of some 30,000*l.* Yesterday the whole fabric fell in, from the pressure of water, fortunately when no workmen were on the works. The blame is attributable to Prince Iachitella, the Minister of War. It appears the king had been warned by some Neapolitan engineers that the walls were too slight; and for some time past the works were pronounced as unsafe by more than one English gentleman, whose professional knowledge at once discovered the error."

Acoustic Alterations in Exeter Hall.—The alteration which is being made at Exeter Hall consists in forming a coved ceiling instead of a flat one, the new ceiling being 12 feet higher in the centre than the former one. This is being effected without disturbing the slating of the roof. Wrought-iron girders are being fixed to the sides of the present principals, and the tie-beams will then be removed. One of the iron girders is now in its place. We have not yet personally looked at the works, but shall do so shortly.

Associate Labour Conference.—On Wednesday in last week, the "Conference of trades and other delegates," at Manchester, was opened, for consideration of the questions of co-operative and associative labour. About forty persons were present. Resolutions were unanimously passed at the public meeting, mainly "pledging itself to advance, by all moral means, the great principle of co-operative association," which latter, of course, must be carefully distinguished from Communism, with which it has no essential connection.

Leeds School of Design.—The directors of this useful establishment have been giving a free exhibition of drawings, models, statues, &c. The exhibition, says the local *Intelligencer*, gave abundant proof that the mode of teaching adopted ensures a mastery of principles, and that the range of study adapts the instruction of the school to persons engaged in every branch of art and manufacture.

Metropolitan Interments Act.—A rate-payer states, in the *Times*, that the suburban parishes, finding themselves exempt from the operations of the new Act, have begun a system of jobbing in graveyards, some of the parishes having two already, and one going to add a third; so that, unless the commissioners can put a stop to it, our suburban villages will soon present the appearance of a complete net-work of petty parochial graveyards.

London Mechanics' Institution.—The members of this long-established institution held a conversazione on Wednesday evening, the 18th, when there was an exhibition of sculpture, specimens of manufactures, and models of machinery. A working model of the electric telegraph was shown in operation. The rooms were very crowded. The drawing class, the music class, and the elocution class lent their aid to afford amusement.

The Sea-Serpent a Hydro-Electric Machine.—Some Irish correspondents of the press are amusing their readers, and themselves, it may be, with grave and wonderful details of that still equivocal monster of the deep, the "sea-sarpint." One of the most ingenious and feasible of these, if a mere invention, and if something more, certainly one of the most extraordinary, is a detail of particulars to the effect that the sea-serpent is no serpent after all, but a tremendous electrical eel, or other creature akin to the gymnotus, charging small fry which it happens to touch, electrically, as well as killing them by the contact. Another writer hints that as the eely tribe inhabit the mud at the bottom of ponds, so the natural habitat of this eel of eels must be the bottom of that "big pond," the Atlantic, the mud of which must be at present disturbed by some portentous geological movement.

Public Conveniences.—There will of necessity, during the ensuing year, be an immense influx of foreigners from every part of the civilised globe; is there, therefore, no convincing the proper authorities of the evident necessity of erecting "public conveniences" in various crowded thoroughfares throughout London? The few already in the metropolis are in such secluded nooks and corners that none but those thoroughly conversant with our city can know where they are situated, and it is therefore hopeless to imagine that *strangers* will ever discover them. This, I know, is a very delicate matter to write about, but as your paper is so extensively circulated among those who will see the necessity of making a determined stir in the matter, I have ventured to address you. F. Stent.

*** This necessity has been urged again and again in our pages.